

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 15 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent. Claims 10-14 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-9 and 15 have been amended herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-9 and 15 recite allowable subject matter. Although minor changes have been made to these claims, these changes were merely made to improve the form of the claims and have not been made for any reasons related to patentability. Claims 1-9 and 15 are believed to remain in condition for allowance.

Claims 10-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Claims 10-14 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, only allowed claims remain in the case. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Williamson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,628

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
MAW\tn

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